

metatarsal of *Picoides is* present, though concealed beneath the skin, as noted by Beddard.

The 'Osteology of the Striges' is not up to the standard of the paper on the Woodpeckers, for the descriptive matter is too long and too much scattered to be readily used; moreover we lack the summary of characters at the end, this not being compensated for by the fact that the main characters are given on two or three pages at the outset. — F. A. L.

Chapman on the Genus *Sturnella*.¹—With the aid of a much larger series of specimens than has been available to previous writers on the subject, Mr. Chapman has been able to furnish the most valuable contribution to the history of this perplexing genus that has yet appeared. After characterizing the various races of Meadowlarks hitherto described, and pointing out the striking differences between the arid (*neglecta*) and the humid (*magna*) groups, the author considers the question of inter-relationships between the two. His conclusions are that the two groups were originally evolved in Mexico, *neglecta* occupying the table land and *magna* the lower humid areas, their relationships here being simply that of well marked geographic races.

Subsequently the two spread northward, *neglecta* covering the western United States and *magna* the eastern region. Still later the two forms, which in the north were quite distinct, have converged and intermingled, thus accounting for the presence of typical *magna* and *neglecta*, as well as intermediates or 'hybrids', side by side in Minnesota and Texas, a fact which is well established.

Due credit is given throughout the paper to Mr. E. W. Nelson, whose careful collecting in Mexico has cleared up the obscurity which had previously prevailed as to the relationships of the two forms in the south.

In emphasizing the fact that the main difference between the *magna* and *neglecta* groups is one of depth of color Mr. Chapman points out that the form recently described as *S. magna hoopesi* should be associated with the latter in spite of the extent of yellow on the sides of the throat. Unless it is deemed advisable to consider the above groups as representing two distinct species, no change in nomenclature is necessary.

Several interesting half-tones from photographs of skins and feathers illustrate the paper, and show clearly the contrast between the light and dark birds. — W. S.

Eaton's 'Birds of Western New York.'²—Mr. Eaton's list relates to "the western portion of New York State, extending eastward through the 'Finger Lake' region," and consisting of three east and west belts,

¹A Study of the Genus *Sturnella*. By Frank M. Chapman, Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. XIII, 1900, pp. 297-320.

²Birds of Western New York. By Elon Howard Eaton. Proc. Rochester Acad., Vol. IV, pp. 1-64. Feb. 15, 1901.